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UNCLAS SANTO DOMINGO 004548

SIPDIS

SENSITIVE

DEPT FOR INR/IAA, WHA/CAR, WHA/PD

E.O. 12958: N/A

TAGS: [BB](#) [BF](#) [DR](#) [GY](#) [JM](#) [PINR](#) [TD](#) [NS](#)

SUBJECT: CARIBBEAN ISSUES CONFERENCE: EMBASSY SANTO DOMINGO
RESPONSE

REF: STATE 245508

[1](#)1. (U) Embassy Santo Domingo strongly supports the proposal of a Caribbean issues conference and expects to nominate an Embassy participant.

[1](#)2. (SBU) In response to para 8 inquiry concerning possible Dominican participants we have the following comments:

- - Frederic Emam Zade, Director of Economic Development of the Fundacion Global Democracia Desarrollo, would be an appropriate choice for the panel on "Engines of Growth." Note that he is close to former President Leonel Fernandez, who has future presidential ambitions. Business phone: (809) 472-0202 ext 224.

- - Frank Rainieri, Chairman of the Punta Cana Group, could ably discuss the touristic investments and development of that particular region in the Dominican Republic. Rainieri is close to current President of the Dominican Republic Hipolito Mejia. He would provide a private sector point of view. Business phone (809) 541-2714, 541-2715, ext. 233; in Punta Cana 221-2262, business fax (809) 686-0165.

- - A possible alternative voice on tourism might be Ellis Perez, Director General of Aerodom, the national airports authority. Perez has extensive experience in the sector, served as Subsecretary of Tourism and has had a long career in communications. He has lectured in tourism at the university level and could provide a wider view of tourism in the Dominican economy. (Reftel does not indicate whether the conference will be entirely in English or whether Spanish interpretation is provided; we do not have a record of Perez' English language ability.) Business phone (809) 472-2030, business fax (809) 565-0561.

- - A possible panelist on the final session on "Migration" might be Juan Artola, chief of mission in Santo Domingo for the International Migration Organization. Artola, from Uruguay, has had a leading role in pressing the GODR to pass legislation and create mechanisms to deal with immigration and to deal with trafficking in persons. He is fluent in English and a good contact of the Embassy. Business phone (809) 732-7121, (809) 566-0430; business fax is (809) 683-4636, e-mail is iomsdomingo@codetel.net.do

[1](#)3. (U) Embassy has not yet contacted Emam Zade or Rainieri but will seek to ascertain their availability.

KUBISKE